

BOTANICAL MUSEUM LEAFLETS

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AN ADDITION TO THE GENUS *VANILLA*

BY

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***Vanilla insignis* Ames, sp. nov.**

Caules valde elongati, foliosi; foliis planis, coriaceis, oblongo-ellipticis, acuminatis, basi subrotundatis in petiolum abbreviatum angustatis. Sepala lateralia oblongo-lanceolata. Sepalum dorsale simile. Petala anguste lanceolata, extus per medium leviter carinata. Labellum fere usque ad medium columnae adnatum, leviter trilobatum, intus prope apicem valde et dense appendiculatum, intus infra medium dense et breviter glandulosum; lobis lateralibus irregulariter fimbriatis; lobo medio rotundato, obtuso, prope basim utrinque paucifimbriato. Discus labelli infra lobum medium plus minusve verrucosus, crista penicillata retrorsa. Columna gracilis, antice dense glandulosa.

Stems scandent, elongated, flexuose, about 6 mm. in diameter in dried specimens, many-leaved, giving the appearance of *Vanilla fragrans*. Leaves alternate, 11.5–15 cm. long, up to 4 cm. wide, 10–14 cm. apart, coriaceous, oblong-elliptic, abruptly acuminate at the tip, rounded at the base and abruptly contracted into the short petioles. Racemes axillary; rachis 3–4 cm. long, bearing approximately eight flowers. Bracts of the raceme about 7 mm. long, 5 mm. wide, broadly ovate, acute, fleshy, strongly concave, about 5 mm. apart. Pedicels abbreviated, nearly obsolete. Ovary at anthesis 3.5–4.5 cm. long, slender,

cylindrical, about 5 mm. in diameter in living specimens. Perianth segments porrect hardly spreading. Lateral sepals greenish, 6.9–7.5 cm. long, 11–14 mm. wide near the middle, 6 mm. wide at the base, oblong-lanceolate, lightly cucullate at the pointed apex, fleshy. Dorsal sepal similar. Petals 7 cm. long, 9 mm. wide, narrowly lanceolate, acute, with the mid-rib prominent on the outer surface. Labellum 6.5–7 cm. long, adnate for about one half of its length to the column, forming with the basal half of the column a slender tube which is strongly inflated above, the free part lightly 3-lobed and 3–3.5 cm. wide; lateral lobes 1.5 cm. long, 1.5 cm. wide, coarsely lacerate-fringed with the segments of the fringe attaining a length of 5 mm.; mid-lobe 1.5 cm. long, 1.4 cm. wide, semi-orbicular, with a small half-round callus near the tip, the basal margin on each side paucifimbriate, the upper surface densely covered with retrorse complanate elongated appendages, the longest ones about 5 mm. in length, in the throat of the labellum these appendages become very much reduced diminishing to verruciform emergences on the nerves in front of the penicillate crest that is situated opposite the stigmas; the slender portion of the throat is densely covered almost to the base with erect or spreading glandular hairs. Column about 5 cm. long, weakly sigmoid, slender, densely glandular-hairy on the anterior surface; anther, pollinia and stigmatic portions as in *Vanilla fragrans*.

REPUBLIC OF HONDURAS, Department of Comayagua, Esquias, El Rio Funes. Epiphyte in open river-valley forest at 2,500 feet altitude. Sepals and petals green, lip white, fringed; tip with a small green spot. Column yellow at the tip fading to white at the base. April 27, 1933. J. B. Edwards 407 (TYPE in Herb. Ames No. 40085).

ILLUSTRATION: Plant natural size. Labellum natural size, spread out to show glandular throat and penicillate crest.

Drawn June 1934 by Blanche Ames



VANILLA
insignis
Ames

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